

Filing, Payment Extensions Offered to Taxpayers Impacted by Major Unexpected Events

The Montana Department of Revenue will extend the individual income tax filing and payment deadlines for certain taxpayers who had difficulty meeting the April 17 tax deadline due to three major unexpected events.

"We know that Montana taxpayers always try to do the right thing by filing and paying their income taxes on time," said Dan Bucks, Revenue Director. "We also know that sometimes life's unexpected circumstances can derail even the best of intentions."

Extensions will be granted to taxpayers impacted by Intuit's last-minute electronic filing overload, the major storm in the Northeastern U.S., and the Virginia Tech shootings. The extensions being granted by the department are in accordance with recent decisions of the Internal Revenue Service.

The Intuit problem is the event that most likely has the largest impact on those filing a Montana income tax return.

Taxpayers who were unable to e-file their tax returns on the evening of April 17 using Intuit Inc. software products have until midnight on April 23 to e-file their state tax returns, without any late payment penalty or late filing penalty. Intuit did not have adequate server capacity to handle several hundred thousand last-minute tax filers on the evening of the tax filing deadline. Affected taxpayers and tax professionals who may have been unable to electronically file returns due to the server problems include those using TurboTax, ProSeries, Lacerte and Intuit's Free File offering, TurboTax Freedom.

Taxpayers affected by the unexpected events of April 16—a major storm that hit the Northeastern U.S. and the Virginia Tech shootings—will be granted the same extensions to file and pay their state income taxes as the Internal Revenue Service granted to federal taxpayers.

"While these events on the East Coast likely did not prevent the vast majority of Montana taxpayers from meeting the April 17 deadline, they may have presented obstacles to tax filing and payment for some non-resident taxpayers or Montana residents who were traveling," said Bucks.

Taxpayers affected by the major storm that hit the Northeast on April 16 now have until April 26 to file their tax returns. Taxpayers affected by the shootings on April 16 at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia, are granted a six-month tax filing and payment extension.

Anyone who needs additional information on these extensions is asked to call the Department of Revenue at (406) 444-6900.